

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-20 are presented for examination. Claims 1-13 and 18-20 are allowed.

Claims 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Watkins in view of Hansen.

Claim 15 has been amended to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. In particular, claim 15, as amended, recites a network interface comprising:

- a host interface for supplying address, data and control signals from a host,
- a storage element for holding a data element accessible via the host interface, and
- alternate access circuitry coupled to the storage element for providing multiple paths for accessing the data element, and configured to select a first path for accessing the data element in a first register when a first type of software is used to operate the network interface, and to select a second path for accessing the data element in a second register when a second type of software is used to operate the network interface.

The combination of applied references neither teach nor suggest the alternate access circuitry configured in the claimed manner.

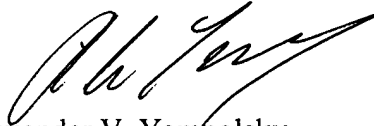
In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 1-13 and 15-20 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 09/481,388

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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